

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions.

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~culture of~~ culturing mycobacteria, comprising culturing said mycobacteria, in batch fermenter culture or continuous culture, with agitation and in the presence of greater than 0.1% (v/v) detergent.
2. previously deleted.
3. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising culturing the mycobacteria at a temperature of 35°C +/- 10°C.
4. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising maintaining the pH at 6.9 +/- 0.9.
5. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, comprising culturing the mycobacteria with an initial dissolved oxygen concentration of at least 1% (v/v) air saturation.
6. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1, for culture of mycobacteria selected from *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis* and *M. vaccae*.
7. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1 for batch culture of mycobacteria, wherein detergent is present at from greater than 0.1 to 1.0% (v/v).
8. (original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein detergent is present at about 0.2% (v/v).
9. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 1 for continuous culture of mycobacteria, wherein detergent is present at greater than 0.1% (v/v).
10. (original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein detergent is present at at least

0.15% (v/v).

11. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 9, wherein the culture is carried out continuously with a dilution rate of at least 0.02 h^{-1} .

12. (original) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the culture is carried out continuously with a dilution rate of at least 0.025 h^{-1} .

13. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 9, comprising growing said mycobacteria in continuous culture, at a temperature of $35^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$, at a dissolved oxygen tension of at least 1 percent, at a pH of 6.9 ± 0.9 , at a dilution rate of at least 0.02 h^{-1} .

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising culturing said bacteria in the presence of a growth medium for culture of mycobacteria, comprising:

- a carbon source;
- a mitogen;
- trace elements comprising at least Mg, K, P and S; and
- a nitrogen source; and
- greater than 0.1% (v/v) detergent.

15. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, wherein the carbon source is selected from glucose, glycerol and an amino acid.

16. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, wherein the mitogen is asparagine.

17. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, comprising trace elements selected from Ca, Mg, Zn, Co, Cu, Mn, Ni, Fe, K, and mixtures thereof.

18. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, wherein the nitrogen source is selected from an amino acid and an ammonium salt.

19. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 18, comprising an amino acid component selected from alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamine, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine and mixtures thereof.

20. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, further comprising a vitamin/co-factor component selected from inositol, thiamine, calcium pantothenate, co-enzyme A, nicotinamide, biotin, DL-thiocitic acid, and mixtures thereof.

21. (currently amended) A method ~~growth medium~~ according to Claim 14, further comprising one or more components selected from sodium hydroxide, glutathione, glycerol, haemin, sodium pyruvate and α -ketoglutarate.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously canceled)

24. (previously canceled)

25. (currently amended) A method of culturing ~~culture of a mycobacteriophage,~~ ~~comprising culture of~~ mycobacteria according to Claim 1, and further comprising contacting said mycobacteria with a mycobacteriophage.

26. (original) A method according to Claim 25, comprising challenging the mycobacteria with an agent for promoting and/or assisting mycobacteriophage adsorption on the mycobacteria.

27. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 26, wherein challenge occurs prior to or substantially at the same time as contacting the mycobacteria with the mycobacteriophage.

28. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 25, comprising reducing or minimising exposures of the phage to detergent present in the mycobacteria culture medium.

29. (previously amended) A method according to Claim 28, comprising allowing phage infection to be established, and then increasing the detergent concentration to greater than 0.1% (v/v) detergent.